

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

COUNTRY	China	DATE OF INFORMATION	1951
SUBJECT	Economic - Agriculture	DATE DIST.	24 Sep 1951
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper	NO. OF PAGES	3
WHERE PUBLISHED	Hong Kong	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	
DATE PUBLISHED	3 Aug 1951		
LANGUAGE	Chinese		

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Hsing-tao Jih-pao.

GOVERNMENT TO CONFISCATE 5 MILLION MOU OF SANDY LAND
FOR COLLECTIVE AND MECHANIZED FARMING IN KWANGTUNG

Sandy land and "lake" fields in the Chu Chiang Delta region are to be confiscated and retained by the government for state use. They will be converted to large-scale mechanized collective farming.

Improved intensive cultivation of 5 million mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre) of sandy land may help solve the problem of Kwangtung's annual food deficit. This annual deficit amounts to 30 million piculs (one picul equals 133.3 pounds). In the future two crops per year will be planted. An additional crop of 400 shih chin per mou could increase the annual food production of the area by 20 million piculs.

SANDY FIELDS TO BE CONFISCATED FOR STATE USE -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao,
3 Aug 51

Sandy fields in the Chu Chiang delta regions will come under a special provision of the land-reform laws in Kwangtung. A directive reiterating the special provision that "sandy fields and 'lake' fields owned by landlords or other organizations shall be confiscated for state use," has been sent to various hsien governments. Such lands will not be distributed to the farmers. The provincial government of Kwangtung plans to convert the sandy fields to large-scale mechanized cultivation.

Improving agricultural methods and intensive cultivation of the 5 million mou of sandy fields in Kwangtung are principal measures to be adopted for solving the food deficiency problem in the province. The government has decided to push large-scale mechanized farming projects.

In the past, farmers using old methods of cultivation were able to produce only 400 shih chin per mou. The new system will increase the yield 30 to 40 catties per mou. Modern agricultural machinery will be used to till the soil,

CONFIDENTIAL

rotation of crops will be started, fertilizer and irrigation methods will be improved, and selected seeds will be planted. Rice seed, such as the Chin Feng Hsueh No 5 which grows well in alkaline and wet soils, will be used. Sowing in high or low ground does not affect the yield of this type.

According to the provincial Agriculture and Forestry Department, cadres are now making surveys of various sandy field areas. They are helping the local farmers with seed selection and the improvement of production. Preliminary reports indicate that all plans are progressing satisfactorily.

PLANS FOR STATE CULTIVATION OF SANDY FIELDS -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao,
3 Aug 51

According to the 1946 survey, the annual food deficit for Kwangtung Province was about 30 million piculs. For the province to become self-sufficient in food, the 5 million mou of fertile sandy land in the Chu Chiang delta must be utilized fully. In the past, due to high rent, lack of labor, capital, and modern techniques, this land was not used efficiently.

High rents have prevented the farmers from earning enough to purchase fertilizer. Thus, the once fertile soil has become depleted. At present, one mou produces an average of only 400 shih chin of grain.

Experiments in the sandy fields of Fan-yu and Yu-hsia-wo for the past 5 years have shown that two crops may easily be planted on the same land each year. At present, however, the farmers plant only one crop per year. By using the two-crop system, an additional yield of 400 shih chin per mou could be obtained from the 5 million mou of sandy land, which, in turn, can increase the annual food production by 20 million piculs. This does not take into account the increase of yield due to improved agricultural methods. If mechanized farming, fertilizers, better seeds, and irrigation systems are added, an increase in yield of 30 catties per mou can easily be obtained. This will add another 3 million piculs to the total production. Thus, by increasing the yield slightly and planting two crops each year, these sandy areas can solve the food deficiency problem in Kwangtung.

Most of the sandy areas lie in the Chu Chiang delta; some are in the Ch'ao-shan, Yen-hai, and Nan-lu regions. Except for this year, the yearly food production from these areas has been falling steadily. The main reasons are:

1. Before the liberation and rent reduction, the farmers were able to keep only 20 catties out of 400 catties they produced on each mou. The average farm unit cultivating 80 mou could hardly subsist on such a meager income. Farmers had to pursue a secondary trade or resort to borrowing. Usually, they used their lands to plant other crops. The lack of labor and capital forced them to cultivate bulky garden crops. This prevented them from raising another cereal crop.

2. Statistics show that an average farm has four adults and one ox to cultivate 80 mou of land. Theoretically this allows 20 mou to each person. Thus the lack of labor prevents meticulous and intensive cultivation and the planting of two crops each year.

3. Most farmers who rent land from landlords do not receive specific time stipulations on the contracts. This destroys their incentive to improve the fields or even to use fertilizer.

4. There is no yearly rotation of crops or other modern technique to improve the soil.

5. Farmers have no sense of permanency of remaining in the village or cultivating the land. They refuse to invest their savings to improve even their own land.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Under the land-reform program now being carried out in Kwangtung, the above evils will be eliminated. The government will confiscate all these lands. In contrast to other types of land, the sandy fields will not be redistributed to the farmers. The government has planned to convert part of it into collective farms. Mechanized and modern methods will be used. The farmers will then be free to join the collective farm system. Other parts of the sandy land will be rented to farmers. Long-term contracts will be used to give farmers assurance and incentive for improving the land. The objective of the second program is to assist the farmers in using new agricultural techniques to step up production.

According to the Agriculture and Forestry Department, the primary objective is to improve the texture of the soil. Since the soil is usually wet, an absorbent and bulky crop such as sugar cane should be planted as a rotation crop. Disc plows should then be used. The two processes will help to dry and loosen the fields. Fertilizer should later be used to the best advantage.

Next, the irrigation system will be improved. Wooden sluices were used originally to guide the water into the individual fields. The repairing of wooden sluices absorbs much energy and expense. They deteriorate quickly and are damaged by water pressure. To improve this, cement water gates should be constructed; one for incoming and the other for discharging water. A central ditch will connect all discharging gates and another the incoming water gates. This will avoid the frequent and expensive repair of water gates and facilitate irrigation. More roads should be built to handle farm products and mechanized implements.

Experiments show that peanut residue and bone meal are ideal fertilizer material for these soils. To increase organic matter and improve the texture, a green crop may be planted after the autumn harvest and allowed to grow till spring. The whole crop should then be plowed under and the field flooded to allow the green crop to rot. The farmers should be encouraged to raise ducks on a very large scale to provide a manure with a high nitrogen content. This spring the government made loans and gave other aid to farmers in the area who raise ducks for this purpose.

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL